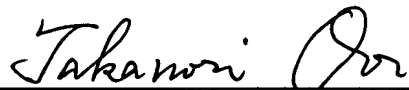


DECLARATION

I, Takanori Aoi, Ph.D., residing at 7th Fl., Shuwa Kioicho Park Bldg., 3-6, Kioicho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0094, Japan, hereby declare that I have a thorough knowledge of Japanese and English languages, and that the attached pages contain a correct translation into English of the application document of Japanese Patent Application No. 10-190748 filed on July 6, 1998 in the name of CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA.

I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made, are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Signed this 4th day of June, 2004.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Takanori Aoi", is written over a horizontal line.

Takanori Aoi, Ph.D.

Translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 10-190748

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